

**APPENDIX A
PENDING CLAIMS AFTER ENTRY OF AMENDMENT**

1. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the nucleotide sequence as set forth in at least one of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4, and or SEQ ID NO:6;
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide as set forth SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:5, and or SEQ ID NO:7; and
 - (c) a nucleotide sequence fully complementary to any of (a)- (b).

Claims 2-3 (canceled).

4. (currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1 or 90-96.

5. (currently amended) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1 or 90-96.

6. (currently amended) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1 or 90-96 operatively linked to a regulatory sequence other than the promoter for a native IL-17 receptor like polypeptide.

7. (currently amended) A host cell modified by transformation or transfection with a regulatory nucleic acid, wherein said regulatory nucleic acid promotes transcription or translation of a nucleic acid comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 4, or 6.

8. (original) The host cell of claim 7 wherein the regulatory nucleic acid sequence is a promoter.

9. (original) The host cell of claim 7 wherein the regulatory nucleic acid is a transcription factor.

10. (currently amended) The host cell of claim 5 that is a eukaryotic cell.

11. (currently amended) The host cell of claim 5 that is a prokaryotic cell.

12. (currently amended) A process of producing an IL-17 receptor like polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of any one of claims 5, 6 or 7 under suitable conditions to express the polypeptide, and optionally isolating the polypeptide from the culture.

Claim 13 (canceled).

14. (currently amended) The process of claim 12, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises promoter DNA other than the promoter DNA for the native IL-17 receptor like polypeptide operatively linked to the DNA encoding the IL-17 receptor like polypeptide.

Claims 15-58 (canceled).

59. (currently amended) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1 or 90-96 and a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation agent.

60. (currently amended) A composition of claim 59 wherein said nucleic acid molecule is contained in a viral vector.

61. (currently amended) A viral vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1 or 90-96.

Claims 62-73 (canceled).

74. (currently amended) A diagnostic reagent comprising a detectably labeled polynucleotide encoding the amino acid sequence set out in at least one of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 7.

75. (original) The diagnostic reagent of claim 74, wherein said labeled polynucleotide is a first-strand cDNA.

Claims 76-89 (canceled).

90. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to the sequence of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 and encodes a polypeptide that is capable of binding an IL-17 molecule.

91. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 and encodes a polypeptide that induces inflammation.

92. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 and encodes a polypeptide that induces myelopoiesis.

93. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide that is capable of binding an IL-17 molecule and hybridizes to the complement of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 under the following stringent conditions: a final wash of 0.015 M sodium chloride and 0.0015 M sodium citrate at 65-68°C.

94. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide that is capable of inducing inflammation and hybridizes to the complement of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 under the following stringent conditions: a final wash of 0.015 M sodium chloride and 0.0015 M sodium citrate at 65-68°C.

95. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide that is capable inducing myelopoiesis and hybridizes to the complement of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 under the following stringent conditions: a final wash of 0.015 M sodium chloride and 0.0015 M sodium citrate at 65-68°C.

96. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide fragment comprising amino acids 14-293 of SEQ ID NO: 2,

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide fragment comprising amino acids 14-350 of SEQ ID NO: 5,

(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide fragment comprising amino acids 1-175 of SEQ ID NO: 7, and

(d) a nucleotide sequence fully_complementary to any of (a)- (c);

wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide fragment that binds an IL-17 molecule under suitable conditions.